

C. STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (SICC)

Establishment and Composition (34 CFR 303.600 303.601)

The Governor of the state appoints the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC). In making an appointment to the Council, the Governor ensures that membership of the Council reasonably represents the population of the State and meets the requirements as specified in CFR 303.601. The chairperson is designated by the Council and does not represent the lead agency. Parents who are selected to serve on the council may not be employees of any agency involved in providing early intervention services.

Meetings (34 CFR 303.603)

The SICC meets at least quarterly. To comply with Missouri's Open Meetings Law, all meetings are generally announced at least one week in advance and at a minimum of 24 hours in advance at the location of the meeting, as well as at DESE. These procedures ensure that meetings are announced sufficiently in advance to ensure attendance and that they are open and accessible to the public. Interpreters for persons who are deaf and other necessary services for both SICC members and participants are provided as requested. The lead agency uses Part C funds to pay for these services.

Use of Funds by the Council (303.602)

Subject to the approval by the Governor, the Council may use funds under this part--

- (1) to conduct hearings and forums;
- (2) to reimburse members of the Council for reasonable and necessary expenses for attending Council meetings and performing Council duties (including child care for parent representatives);
- (3) to pay compensation to a member of the Council if the member is not employed or must forfeit wages from other employment when performing official Council business.
- (4) to hire staff; and,
- (5) to obtain the services of professional, technical, and clerical personnel, as may be necessary to carry out the performance of its functions under this part.

Compensation and expenses of Council members

Except as provided in items 2 and 3 above, Council members shall serve without compensation from funds available under this part.

Conflict of Interest (34 CFR 303.604)

No member of the Interagency Coordinating Council may cast a vote on any matter that would provide direct financial benefit to that member or otherwise give the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Functions (34 CFR 303.650-303.654)

The functions of the Interagency Coordinating Council are to:

1. advise and assist the lead agency in the development and implementation of policies that constitute the statewide system;
2. assist the lead agency in achieving full participation, coordination, and cooperation of all appropriate public agencies in the state;
3. assist the lead agency in the implementation of the statewide system by establishing a process that includes:
 - a) seeking information from service providers, service coordinators, parents, and others about any Federal, State, or local policies that impede timely service delivery; and
 - b) taking steps to ensure that policy problems identified under 3. a. above are resolved;
4. to the extent appropriate, assist the lead agency in the resolution of disputes; and,
5. to strengthen service integration for both infants and toddlers with disabilities and at-risk infants and their families, regardless of eligibility status.

The Council advises and assists the lead agency in the performance of their responsibilities for the:

1. appropriate services for children ages 0-5 inclusive, including transitional services to preschool
2. and other appropriate services;
3. identification of sources of fiscal and other support for services for early intervention services;
4. assignment of financial responsibility to the appropriate agency; and,
5. promotion of interagency agreements under 34 CFR 303.523.

The Council advises and assists the lead agency in the preparation of applications and amendments to applications under Part C. The Council also advises and assists the lead agency (SEA) regarding the transition of toddlers with disabilities to services provided under Part B of the IDEA or to preschool and other appropriate services.

The Council advises appropriate agencies in the State with respect to the integration of services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and at-risk infants and toddlers and their families, regardless of whether at-risk infants and toddlers are eligible for early intervention services in the State.

The Council prepares an annual report to the Governor and to the Secretary of the US Department of Education on the status of early intervention programs operated in the State and submits this report to the Secretary on the date established by the Secretary. Each annual report contains information required by the Secretary for the reporting year.